

GATEWAY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

*Los Angeles Gateway Region
Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority*

16401 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562.663.6850 phone 562.634.8216 fax • www.gatewayirwmp.org

October 2, 2013

Mr. Mark Cowin, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant – Draft Funding Recommendations

Dear Director Cowin:

We are writing to you to strongly oppose the California Department of Water Resources “DWR” Draft Funding Recommendations for Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Grants. Upon review of DWR’s evaluations, it is apparent that the point system is subjective at best.

It is hard to understand how the Gateway Region, a densely populated watershed region which encompasses a very high percentage of disadvantaged communities was completely disregarded. It is clear that regions with lower scores and/or lower cost/benefit scores can still get grant funds because they have the ability to provide much larger matching funds.

The State’s very own studies and resources show that the Gateway Region ranks as one of the highest areas in Los Angeles County for poverty and poor health associated with water, pollution, etc. It is precisely why the Gateway Region requested its separate designation as a watershed region. We know and understand, first hand, the needs of our watershed, communities and our citizens. Larger agencies do not have the level of community participation and knowledge. By ignoring the watershed needs of our Region, you are sending a clear message that the bigger, deep-pocket agencies control the process and that disadvantaged communities are not going to be given the consideration that they deserve.

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Again, we strongly object to DWR's recommendation to deny the Gateway Region of Proposition 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant funding. As the only region out of four in the Los Angeles/Ventura funding area that is not recommended for funding, we strongly urge you to reconsider Gateway Water Management Authority's application.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Cash, Chair

cc: Speaker of the Assembly John Perez

Assembly Members:

Anthony Rendon, Ian Calderon, Cristina Garcia, Sharon Quirk-Silva,
Bonnie Lowenthal

Senators:

Ricardo Lara, Kevin DeLeon

GWMA Board Members

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Ex-Officio Participant: Hawaiian Gardens

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